

# AMERICAN PIONEER.

Devoted to the Truth and Justice of History.

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VOL. I.

SEPTEMBER, 1842.

NO. IX.

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## ANCIENT FORTIFICATION.

*Pittsburgh, April, 1842.*

JNO. S. WILLIAMS, Esq.

*Dear Sir*—The accompanying plan is an accurate representation of an old fortification situated on Big Beaver creek, Fayette county, Va. This work was first surveyed by Mr. Beckley, in October, 1837. I visited it in August of the following year, and must say that you can form no adequate idea, from drawings, of the immense quantity of labor it must have required to erect this fortification. The walls have fallen, or have been thrown down, covering a space of twenty feet from the edge of the fallen stone on the inside to the edge of the fallen stone on the outside. I suppose, from this measurement of the fallen stone, that the walls at the base were about seven feet thick, and that they were about six feet high. The distance from gate-way to gate-way is a little over one hundred feet.

This curious work is situated (as you will perceive) upon a level bottom of some twenty or more acres, and near its extreme point, where the creek makes a sudden bend; and it is evident to a military coup d'œil that the creek was intended to serve as a wet and formidable ditch, for cleared of laurel and timber, as we may presume the point then was, and during most of the year the creek presenting a rapid current, if not very deep, and of average width of fifteen yards, with banks perhaps six feet abrupt ascent, the garrison could have swept all its approaches with their arrows, &c. The three northern faces are evidently so placed as to enfilade an enemy approaching up the creek, or from the small sandy islands, while the southern face opposes the approach down the creek. The terra plane of the fort, and the point of land on which it stands, are covered with heavy timber, chiefly white and spruce pine, and a dense growth of laurel trees, some of which are fifteen or twenty feet high. At present the wall is little over three feet high above the terra plane—which, by the by, I should mention, is lower than the outer circumjacent surface. It was suggested by an old hunter (the discoverer of this work) that the ground had been beaten down by the tramp of

men; but this could not be, for the first frost would have raised the ground to its original height. Again, it has been suggested that the work was a cattle pen, and that the mud that would necessarily accumulate in such a place, had been carried out on the feet of the cattle. The idea of this work being a pen for cattle, is at once dispelled by looking at the drawing. The position and disposition of the work proves it to be of a military character.

The walls, to all appearance, were faced inside and outside with dry masonry and filled in with smaller stones; there are two small pieces of inside facing still standing—one in the southwestern angle of the work, the other at the north side of the eastern gateway: this piece of facing, which is the butt of the northeast circular face, have their joints well broken.

The stone of which this work is built, is evidently fractured by percussion. The stone, as they lie, are edges up; evidently the fallen faces of the walls. It may be well to remark that the bottom land, on which this work is situated, presents no appearance of rock or stones whatever. The soil is extremely rich; it is jet black and is very light. The ground, when I visited it, was covered with fern breast high.

You will perceive by the drawing, that the hills on the opposite side of the creek from the work come sharp up to the creek.

Large pine trees have taken possession of all the salient angles, as if to perpetuate the form of the work. The area of this work is about twenty square rods. At *a* there is a spruce pine six feet eight inches in girth growing on the wall.

*Isaac Craig*

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*Columbia, June 18, 1789.*

SIR,—After my respects to you and family, I would inform you that after further deliberation on the subject of the second purchase, that if you should find it valued, that you would endeavor to purchase or come in with the owners of the point, if you can find who they are, so that we may hold some lots in and some out. Sir, do what you can, and we will be on the same terms of the article of agreement betwixt us. This from your humble servant,

*Benjamin Stites*

TO JOHN S. GANO, Washington.

## WILLIAM PITT.

A BRIEF account of the life of a man so highly distinguished as the friend of liberty among her stoutest foes as William Pitt, (in honor of whom Pittsburgh received its name) cannot be unacceptable to the readers of the *American Pioneer*. We extract it from the *Literary Magazine* of 1806.

"WILLIAM PITT, afterwards earl of Chatham, inherited but a scanty patrimony, and though he had recourse to the profession of arms for support, never rose higher than a cornet of horse. What was wanting, however, in wealth, was abundantly supplied by talents, for nature lavished on him her choicest store, and formed him on the model of ancient times."

"Having opposed sir Robert Walpole, that minister meanly deprived him of his commission; but this proved no obstacle to his advancement in the state, for in 1756 he became minister. His administration forms the most illustrious portion of the British annals, and it is memorable in every point of view. During that period, so able were his plans, and so original, and yet judicious, the manner in which they were executed, that, notwithstanding a strong opposition in the cabinet, the nation united in his support. Despising narrow prejudices, he was the first to call forth all the resources of the empire, by employing indiscriminately all its inhabitants; and with this collected mass he smote the French monarchy with a blow, from which it could never have recovered had he been supported in that quarter where he had the strongest claims. Thus the early portion of the reign of George III. became clouded by his dismissal, and men of penetration began to forebode the most disastrous events.

"Retiring, though not in disgrace, the wishes of the people still followed him; nor did he ever betray their confidence, for he persevered to the last moment of his life in those principles which he had early avowed. Two of the great objects on which his noble mind was constantly employed during the latter years of his life, appear to have been a reform in parliament, without which he prognosticated the most fatal evils, and an immediate conclusion to the American war, the disasters of which but too clearly he anticipated."

"He may be said to have died as he had lived, in the service of his country: for, having fainted in consequence of his violent exertions in the house of peers, he was seized with a malady which speedily conducted him to his grave."

"The demise of Chatham was lamented by all parties; as during his ministry no inroads were made on public liberty, and as he had no enemies but those of his country, his death was counted a public calamity. The parliament which had despised his counsels unanimously voted him a funeral at the public expence, in Westminster Abbey, and a pension of four thousand pounds per annum to his heirs, annexed in perpetuity to the title which he had so gloriously acquired for *them*, rather than himself."

**A BRIEF SKETCH OF THE HISTORY OF PITTSBURGH.**

IN writing a history of the prosperous city which now stands at the head of the Ohio, it is not necessary to look very far back. There are now living many persons, not yet arrived at extreme old age, whose memories extend beyond the time when a white man first attempted to make a settlement at the "Forks of the Ohio," the site of the city of Pittsburgh.

The governor of Canada, with that enterprising ambition so characteristic of Frenchmen, had formed a vast scheme for the connection of Canada with Louisiana, by a line of well selected posts, to be extended from the Lakes to the Mississippi. It was hoped that this scheme, if successful, would not only contribute to the mutual advantage of those distant provinces, but would also circumscribe the bounds of the English colonies, and effectually destroy their trade and influence with the Indians. A post had already been established at the mouth of French creek, where the village of Franklin now stands, and preparations were making to take possession of "the Forks," at the junction of the Monongahela and Allegheny rivers. The governor of Virginia, becoming alarmed by the intelligence he had received of the progress of the French, despatched **GEORGE WASHINGTON** from that state with instructions to proceed to Fort Venango, (the name of the Fort at French creek,) to demand an explanation of their designs from the French commandant. On his way to Fort Venango, on the 23d of November, 1753, he arrived at the spot which Pittsburgh now covers. While here he carefully examined the ground, and thought it a very suitable position for the erection of a military post. From a careful perusal of his journal, it seems manifest, that there was not, at that time, a single white resident within the limits of our present city.

In the ensuing spring, the Virginia Ohio Company made arrangements to take permanent possession of the country near the junction of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers, and had commenced the erection of a redoubt, to secure their possession. On the 17th April, 1754, before this redoubt was completed, Monsieur de Contrecoeur, a French officer, with three hundred canoes, containing one thousand Frenchmen and Indians, and eighteen pieces of cannon, arrived here from Fort Venango, and compelled ensign Ward, who commanded the party engaged in erecting the redoubt, to surrender. The capture of this small detachment of troops was the first open act of hostility committed by the French, and may be considered as the commencement of a war which continued for nine years, and which agitated the two continents, from the banks of the Ganges to the head of the Ohio. From the 17th April, 1754, to the 24th November, 1758, the French retained possession of this place; and this position gave them an influence over the neighboring tribes of Indians, which was so used as to inflict upon the frontier settlers much distress and bloodshed. The importance of this position in a military point of view, was duly appreciated, and early and energetic measures were adopted to expel the French. The expedition and defeat of general Braddock, on the 9th July, 1755, are notorious events, the account of



which is not necessary to repeat in this sketch. In 1758, a formidable army was assembled at Carlisle, under the command of general Forbes. On the 14th September, 1758, major Grant, who had been detached in advance from Loyal-hanna, with eight hundred men, was surrounded by the enemy, on the hill which has since borne his name, and lost above three hundred men killed or taken prisoners, and himself shared the latter fate. General Forbes, however, undismayed by this disaster, pressed forward, and having on the 24th November, 1758, arrived within one day's march of Fort du Quesne, the French having set fire to the fort, abandoned it, and descended by the Ohio to their posts on the Mississippi. On the next day general Forbes took possession of the abandoned post, having hastily repaired the fortifications and garrisoned them with four hundred and fifty men, principally Provincials, from Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia, under colonel Mercer—the general marched the rest of the troops to Lancaster, Reading, and Philadelphia.

In 1763 an arrangement was made between the Shawanese, and other tribes of Indians, along the lakes, and on the Ohio, and its tributary streams, to attack, simultaneously, all the English posts and frontier settlements. In the execution of this plan, they captured Le Boeuf, Venango, Presquile, Michilimackinac, and various other posts, which were feebly garrisoned, and murdered all the prisoners. As a part of this great scheme of operations, Fort Pitt was completely surrounded by the Indians, who cut off all communication with the interior of the country, and greatly annoyed the garrison by an incessant discharge of musketry and arrows. The commanding officer, captain Ewyer, and the garrison, (which was increased by the Indian traders, who had escaped massacre and taken refuge in the fort) made a gallant defense.

Colonel Bouquet was detached from Carlisle, to relieve the beleaguered post, and after a severe conflict with the Indians at Bushy Run, he arrived at Fort Pitt on the 9th of August, 1763. In the action of the 5th August, 1763, the Indians were severely handled, several of their principal chiefs were killed, and they were so much dispirited that they immediately abandoned their operations against Fort Pitt, and retired to their towns on the Muskingum and farther west. In October, 1764, colonel Bouquet marched on an expedition against the Indian towns on the Muskingum. He reached the Indian towns near the forks of that river, without opposition, and there dictated terms of peace to them.

It was during this year, 1764, probably after the treaty had removed all fear of the Indians, that the old military plan, being that portion of the city lying between Water street and Second street, and between Market and Ferry streets, was laid out. During this year, also, was erected the brick redoubt still standing, a little west of Stanwix street, and north of Penn street, being the only remaining monument of British industry within our city limits. In a stone block, in the south face of this redoubt, is still to be seen this inscription, "Col. Bouquet, A. D. 1764."

From this time until the close of the Revolutionary War, but little improvement was made at Pittsburgh. The fear of Indian hostilities,

or the actual existence of Indian warfare, prevented emigration. In 1775, the number of dwelling houses within the limits of our present city, did not, according to the most authentic accounts, exceed twenty-five or thirty.

During the Revolution, the Penn family were adherents of the British government, and in 1779, the legislature of this state confiscated all their property, except certain manors, &c., of which surveys had been actually made and returned into the land office, prior to the 4th of July, 1776, and also, except any estates which said Penns held in their private capacities, by device, purchase or descent. Pittsburgh and the country eastward of it and south of the Monongahela, containing about 5,800 acres, composed one of these manors, and of course remained as the property of the Penns.

In the spring of 1784, arrangements were made by Mr. Tench Francis, the agent of the Penns, to lay out the manor of Pittsburgh, in town lots and out-lots, to sell them without delay. For this purpose he engaged Mr. George Woods, of Bedford, an experienced surveyor, to execute this work. In May, 1784, Mr. Woods arrived here, bringing with him, as the operative surveyor, Mr. Thomas Vickroy, of Bedford county, who was then a very young man, and who still survives and enjoys vigorous health, at a good old age. Through their activity and industry, the work was soon completed, and the lots and out-lots being placed in market, seem to have been very rapidly purchased. From this time improvement seems to have commenced here—mechanics and traders composed a greater proportion of the population. In 1784, Arthur Lee, a conspicuous diplomatist during our Revolution, was appointed a commissioner to treat with the Indians, and on his way passed through Pittsburgh. In his journal we find the following notice of this place: "Pittsburgh is inhabited ALMOST ENTIRELY by Scots and Irish, who live in paltry log-houses, and are as dirty as if in the north of Ireland, or even Scotland. There is a great deal of trade carried on; the goods being brought at the vast expense of forty-five shillings per cwt., from Philadelphia and Baltimore. They take, in the shops, money, wheat, flour, and skins. There are in the town four attorneys, two doctors, and not a priest of any persuasion, nor church, nor chapel. The rivers encroach fast on the town; and to such a degree, that, as a gentleman told me, the Allegheny had within thirty years of his memory, carried away one hundred yards. The place, I believe, will never be very considerable." If Mr. Lee could now visit the valley of the head of the Ohio, he would find here, a free white population exceeding that of the six largest cities and towns in the Old Dominion. The appearance of Pittsburgh at that time, was not such as would excite extravagant expectations. A small town, composed of two or three brick redoubts, converted into dwelling houses, and some forty or fifty round or hewn log buildings, inhabited principally by poor mechanics and laborers, would have a very discouraging aspect to the eye of a Virginia gentleman, who had visited London, Paris, and Madrid. But those mechanics and laborers were free, had the directions of their own exertions, were industrious, were striving for the advantage of themselves and their offspring, and the possession and enjoyment of the produce

of their own labor were secured to them by equal laws. These circumstances, aided by the natural advantages of this situation, in less than fifty years converted a village of a few petty log houses, into a large, wealthy, and rapidly increasing city.

Discouraging as were the appearance of things in 1784, yet in 1786 John Scull and Joseph Hall, two poor but enterprising young men, boldly determined to risk their little all in a printing establishment here, and on the 29th of July of that year issued the first number of the *Pittsburgh Gazette*. The publication of a paper, by disseminating information and attracting attention to the place, no doubt contributed to the growth of the town; it therefore deserves to be mentioned as one of the causes of the rise of a frontier village to a great city.

About this time the tide of emigration from Pennsylvania and Virginia to Kentucky commenced, and in its progress it contributed to the advancement of the place, not only by leaving portions of the funds of the emigrants in exchange for the means of transportation and supplies, but by occasionally leaving here some of the emigrants themselves.

The Indian wars, too, which raged on our northern and western frontier, until Wayne's treaty in 1795, by collecting here large bodies of troops, thus creating a demand for the produce of farms and shops, contributed greatly to the prosperity and growth of our town. On the 24th September, 1788, an act passed creating the county of Allegheny, out of parts of Washington and Westmoreland counties. By this act the courts were appointed to be held at Pittsburgh, until certain trustees, named in the act, should erect suitable buildings on the reserved tract opposite Pittsburgh. By the act of the 13th of April, 1791, this provision of the act of 1788 was repealed, and the trustees were authorized and required to purchase lots in Pittsburgh for a court house and jail.

The creation of a separate county, and the consequent establishment of county offices, and the frequent assemblage here of jurors, suitors, and witnesses, operated to the advantage and improvement of the place. The most important event, however, in the early history of our town, was the Western Insurrection, in 1794. This disturbance compelled the government to send a large number of troops to this neighborhood. These troops were principally volunteers; active, enterprising young men, many of whom were so pleased with Pittsburgh and the surrounding country, that after performing their tour of duty, they returned home merely to make the necessary arrangements for a permanent settlement here. From that time the progress of the city has been regular and scarcely interrupted, except by the reaction which took place after the late war.

In addition to the foregoing "Brief Sketch," a few statistical and historical facts relative to the progress of our town, at an early period, will here be added.

In an article written by the late Judge Brackenridge, then a young attorney, and published in the first number of the *Pittsburgh Gazette*, the number of houses in the town of Pittsburgh was stated to be about one hundred.—Allowing to each house five inhabitants, which is probably quite enough, the population would be about five hundred.



In the Pittsburgh Gazette of the 9th of January, 1796, we find the following paragraph :

"The number of inhabitants in the borough of Pittsburgh, as taken by the assessors, during the last week, amounts to *one thousand three hundred and ninety-five.*" This is the earliest authentic account of the population of this place.

In a description of the country at the head of the Ohio, published in the fourth and fifth numbers of the Pittsburgh Gazette, on the 19th and 26th of August, 1786, we find some statements which may be interesting.

1st. It appears that there was then settled in the town, one clergyman of the Calvinistic church, Samuel Barr, and one of the German Calvinistic church, *occasionally* preached here.

2. It is stated also, that "a church of squared timber and moderate dimensions is on the way to be built." This church stood within the ground now covered by the First Presbyterian church.

3. There were two gentlemen of the medical faculty then here. One we know, was Dr. Bedford.

4. There were also two lawyers here. These, we presume, were the late Judge Brackenridge and John Woods.

5. Carriages from Philadelphia were then six pence for each pound weight. The writer makes the following prediction. "However improved the conveyance may be, and by whatever channel, the importation of heavy articles will still be expensive. The manufacturing them, therefore, *will become more an object here than elsewhere.*"

Pittsburgh was then (1786) in Westmoreland county, and the inhabitants had to travel to Hanna's town, about thirty miles, to attend court.

In the Pittsburgh Gazette of September 30, 1786, there is the following extract of a letter, dated,

PHILADELPHIA, *September 14, 1786.*

"Mr. Brison has just returned from New York, with orders to establish a post from this place to Pittsburgh, and one from Virginia to Bedford.—The two to meet at Bedford."

Prior to that time there was no regular mail to this place, and the then printers of the Gazette and other inhabitants had to depend upon casual travelers.

In the Gazette of March 10, 1787, it is mentioned that "a meeting of the inhabitants of Pittsburgh had been held on the 1st instant, and that Messrs. Hugh Ross, Stephen Bayard, and the Rev. Samuel Barr, had been appointed a committee to report a plan for building a *market house* and establishing market days." The citizens were also invited to meet the committee in the public square on Monday the 12th instant, to hear their report. Soon afterwards the first market house was erected near the corner of Second and Market streets, where Beale's tavern now stands.

During the session of the legislature of 1786-7, an act was passed "for the establishment of an academy or public school at Pittsburgh, and another for the incorporation of the Church of Pittsburgh," being in fact the first Presbyterian church.

The first act for the incorporation of the *borough* of Pittsburgh,



was passed on the 22nd of April, 1794. The act to incorporate the *City of Pittsburgh*, was passed on the 18th of March, 1816.

From 1790 to 1800, the business of Pittsburgh and the West was small, but gradually improving, the fur trade of the West was very important, and Messrs. Peter Maynard and William Morrison were engaged largely in it, and from 1790 to 1796, received considerable supplies of goods, through Mr. Guy Bryan, a wealthy merchant in Philadelphia, and the goods were taken to Kaskaskia in a barge, which annually returned to Pittsburgh, laden with bear, buffaloe, and deer skins, and furs and peltries of all kinds, which were sent to Mr. Bryan, and the barge returned, laden with goods; at that period there was no regular drayman in Pittsburgh, and the goods were generally hauled from the boats with a three horse wagon, until (in 1797) a Mr. James Rattle, an Englishman, settled in this city, and was encouraged to take up the business, and drayed and stored goods, until a box of dry goods was stolen from his yard, and shed, (for then we had no warehouse, nor regular commission merchant, in Pittsburgh,) and this broke the poor man up, and he died broken-hearted and unhappy.

A French gentleman, Louis Anastasius Tarasçon,\* emigrated in 1794, from France, and established himself in Philadelphia, as a merchant; he was a large importer of silks, and all kinds of French and German goods; being very wealthy and enterprising, in 1799 he sent two of his clerks, Charles Brugiere and James Berthoud, to examine the course of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, from Pittsburgh to New Orleans, and ascertain the practicability of sending ships and clearing them from this port, ready rigged, to the West Indies and Europe. Those two gentlemen returned to Philadelphia, reported favorably, and Mr. Tarasçon associated them and his brother, John Anthony, with himself, under the firm of "John A. Tarasçon, brothers, James Berthoud, & Co.," and immediately established, in Pittsburgh, a large wholesale and retail store and warehouse, a ship yard, a rigging and sail loft, an anchor smith shop, a block manufactory, and in short every thing necessary to complete vessels for sea. The first year, 1801, they built the schooner *Amity*, of 120 tons, and the ship *Pittsburgh*, of 250 tons; and sent the former, loaded with flour, to St. Thomas, and the other, also with flour, to Philadelphia, from whence they sent them to Bordeaux, and brought back a cargo of wine, brandy, and other French goods, part of which they sent here in wagons at a carriage of from six to eight cents per pound. In 1802, they built the brig *Nanino*, of 250 tons,—in 1803, the ship *Louisiana*, of 300 tons,—and in 1804, the ship *Western Trader*, of 400 tons.

In or about the year 1796, three of the royal princes of Orleans came to Pittsburgh, and stopped at a hotel, situated on the bank of the Monongahela, where Jno. D. Davis' warehouse now stands; they were very affable and conversant, and remained for some time in the city; at length they procured a large skiff, part of which was covered with tow linen, laid in a supply of provisions, and (having procured two men to row the skiff,) proceeded on to New Orleans. One of these princes was Louis Philippe, the present king of France; who,

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\* These facts have been furnished by Anthony Beelen, Esq., an early merchant.

in his exile, visited our city, and spent his time very agreeably with general Neville, general James O'Hara, and several other respectable families, who then lived on the bank of the Monongahela river.

Having lived in Pittsburgh forty years, the most of which time we have been actively engaged in business, in the busy throng of trade, and having in early times traveled a good deal, we present a variety of facts and statistics, in the course of our work, to shew by way of contrast, not only what Pittsburgh—but Wheeling, Erie, Cleaveland, Chambersburgh, and a number of flourishing towns and cities, were in our early days, and what, by their real business, they are now. Facts that will shew, that in about forty years, our own time, these United States, and especially our range and portion of it, have exceeded in growth, population, improvement, and wealth, any nation on the face of the earth; for we remember well during the embargo times and last war, when the internal trade and commerce of Pittsburgh, by the Ohio, western, and southern rivers, brought us comparatively nigh to Wheeling, Cincinnati, Louisville, Nashville, St. Louis, Natchez, and New Orleans—but the slow process of keel boats and barges was such, that it consumed almost a whole summer for a trip down and up,—when all was done by the hardy boatman, with the pole or by warping,—and when a barge arrived, with furs from St. Louis, cotton from Natchez, hemp, tobacco, and saltpetre from Maysville, or sugar and cotton from New Orleans and Natchez, it was a wonder to the many, and drew vast crowds to see and rejoice over it; and the internal commerce during the war, allied us closely with Richmond, Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York, these cities getting much of their sugar, saltpetre, &c., by boats and wagons, through Pittsburgh, which then did an immense carrying trade for the United States.

Since the steam boats, canals, turnpikes, rail roads, and other public improvements have afforded vast additional facilities for supplying the great, wide-spread, and wonderful West with goods and manufactures of all kinds, and transporting her rich and inexhaustless supplies of tobacco, lead, iron, cotton, sugar, molasses, flour, furs, peltries, &c. &c. to the eastern cities, who, we ask, can measure, count, or estimate the immense magnitude of this trade in future years and ages, as the country teems with her millions upon millions of sober, intelligent, industrious, productive citizens, and her rich prolific soil; and especially, in times such as we have seen and passed through; wars in Europe, and wars in our own country, and our foreign trade and commerce, embargoed and cut up?

#### EARLY STATISTICS OF PITTSBURGH.

- 1768. South-western portion of western Pennsylvania purchased from the Indians.  
Commencement of Indian wars in western Pennsylvania.
- 1775. Land east of the Allegheny river, to the west branch of the Susquehannah, open for settlement; and mostly taken up by rapacious speculations.

1792. West of the Allegheny river in Pennsylvania open for settlement.  
1795. Treaty of Greenville and cessation of Indian hostilities.  
1804. Pittsburgh magazine commenced.  
1807. Pittsburgh has but one glass-house, one air-furnace, fifty stores, four nail factories (worked by hand,) no steam engines employed. Houses, 767. Population, 4,740.  
1813. Houses, 958.  
1817. Pittsburgh has five glass-houses, four air-furnaces, one hundred and nine stores. Manufactures four hundred tons of nails by steam.  
Eight steam engines moving mills.  
1,303 houses; 8,000 inhabitants.  
March 18.—Organized under city charter.  
Steamer New Orleans burnt at New Orleans.  
Steamer Franklin and Buffalo built.
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*Treasury Department, October 9, 1801.*

SIR—The President of the United States having thought proper to appoint you a Commissioner under the fourth section of an act of Congress, passed March 3d, 1801, entitled "An Act giving a right of pre-emption to certain persons who have contracted with John Cleves Symmes, or his associates, for lands lying between the Miami rivers, in the Territory of the United States, north-west of the Ohio," I enclose to you herewith a commission for that purpose.

The duties to be performed and the compensation to be allowed to you therefor, being fully detailed in the act above recited, I shall only remark, that as the commissions will not arrive in time to admit of the three weeks notice required by the law, all practicable means should be employed to apprise the parties concerned of the appointment of the commissioners, as well through the medium of the newspaper published at Cincinnati, as by handbills posted up in the neighboring districts. As it will be proper, however, that the commissioners should act in concert in this and all other matters confided to them, I beg leave to recommend that a meeting be immediately held for that purpose. I am, very respectfully, sir,

Your obedient servant,

*Albert Gallatin*

WILLIAM GOFORTH, Esq, at Cincinnati.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF ISAAC WILLIAMS.

## CHAPTER. I.

Early reminiscences should be preserved—Isaac Williams' birth and adventures—A distressing occurrence—Settlement and explorations—Land entries—Marries Rebecca Martin—Her prowess—Her medical skill—Their wedding—Indian troubles.

To us who are now enjoying the benefits of the toils and dangers of the early explorers and pioneers of the valley of the Ohio, there ought to be no more pleasant employment than that of recounting their exploits, and preserving the remembrances of their names. It is a duty we owe to their memory. Amongst that hardy list of adventurers, on the left bank of the Ohio, I know the name of no one more worthy of preservation than that of Isaac Williams.

He was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania, the 16th day of July, 1737. While he was quite a boy his parents moved to Winchester, Virginia, then a frontier town. Soon after this event his father died, and his mother married Mr. Buckley. When he was about eighteen years old, the colonial government employed him as a ranger, or spy, to watch and observe the movements of the Indians, for which his early acquaintance with a hunter's life eminently fitted him. In this capacity he served in the army of general Braddock. He also formed one of the party who guarded the first convoy of provisions to Fort Du Quesne, after its surrender to general Forbes in 1758. The stores were carried on pack horses over the rough declivities of the mountains, continually exposed to the attack of the Indians, for which the deep ravines and narrow ridges of the mountain ranges afforded every facility. After the peace made with the Indians in 1765, by colonel Bouquet, the country on the waters of the Monongahela began to be settled by the people east of the mountains. Amongst the early emigrants to this region were the parents of Mr. Williams, whom he conducted across the mountains in 1768, but did not finally locate himself in the west till the following year, when he settled on the waters of Buffalo creek, near the present town of West Liberty. He accompanied Ebenezer and Jonathan Zane, when they explored and located the country about Wheeling, in 1769. Previous to this period, however, he made several hunting excursions to the waters of the Ohio.

In returning from one of these adventurous expeditions in company with two other men in the winter of 1767, the following incident befell him. Early in December, as they were crossing the glades of the Allegheny mountains, they were overtaken by a violent snow storm. This is always a stormy cold region, but on the present occasion the



snow fell to the depth of five or six feet, and put a stop to their further progress. It was followed by intensely cold weather. While confined in this manner to their camp, with a scanty supply of food and no chance of procuring more by hunting, one of his companions was taken sick and died, partly from disease and partly from having no food but the tough indigestible skins of their peltry, from which the hair had been signed off at the camp fire and then boiled in their kettle. Soon after the death of this man, his remaining companion, from the difficulty of procuring fuel, became so much frozen in the feet that he could render Mr. Williams no further assistance. He contrived, however, to bury the dead man in the snow. The feet of this man were so badly frosted that he lost all his toes and a part of each foot, thus rendering him entirely unable to travel for a period of nearly two months. During this time their food consisted of the few remnants of their skins, and their drink of melted snow. The kind heart of Mr. Williams would not allow him to leave his friend in this suffering condition while he went to the nearest settlement for aid, lest he should be attacked by wild beasts or perish for want of sustenance. With a patience and fortitude that would have awarded him a civic crown in the best days of the chivalrous Romans, he remained with his helpless friend until he was so far restored to health as to enable him to accompany him in his return to his home. So much reduced was his own strength, from starvation and cold, that it was many months before his usual health was restored.

In 1769, he became a resident of the western wilds, and made his home on the waters of Buffalo creek. Here he found himself in a wide field for the exercise of his darling passion, hunting. From his boyhood he had displayed a great relish for a hunter's life, and in this employment he for several years explored the recesses of the western wilds, and followed the water courses of the great valley to the mouth of the Ohio; and from thence along the shores of the Mississippi to the banks of the turbid Missouri. As early as the year 1770 he trapped the beaver on the tributaries of this river, and returned in safety with a rich load of furs.

During the prime of his life he was occupied in hunting and in making entries of lands. This was done by girdling a few trees and planting a small patch of corn. This operation entitled the person to four hundred acres of land. Entries of this kind were very aptly called "Tomahawk improvements." An enterprising man could make a number of these in a season, and sell them to persons who, coming later into the country, had not so good an opportunity to select prime lands as the first adventurers. Mr. Williams sold many of

these "rights" for a few dollars, or the value of a rifle gun, which was then thought a fair equivalent, of so little account was land then considered; and besides, like other hunters of his day, thought wild lands of little value except as hunting grounds. There was, however, another advantage attached to these simple claims; it gave the possessor the right of entering one thousand acres of land adjoining the improvement, on condition of his paying a small sum per acre into the treasury of the state of Virginia. These entries were denominated "pre-emption rights," and many of the richest lands on the left bank of the Ohio river are now held under these early titles. As Virginia then claimed all the lands on the north-west side of the Ohio, many similar entries were made at this early day on the right bank, and also on the rich alluvions of the Muskingum, as high up as the falls—one tract, a few miles above Marietta, is still known as "Wiseman's bottom," after the man who made a "tomahawk entry" at that place. After the cession of the lands or the territory north-west of the river Ohio to the United States, these early claims were forfeited.

While occupied in these pursuits, he became acquainted with Rebecca Martin, the daughter of Mr. Joseph Tomlinson, of Grave creek, then a young widow, and married her in October, 1775. Her former husband, John Martin, had been a trader among the Indians, and was killed on the Big Hockhocking in the year 1770. A man by the name of Hartness, her uncle on the mother's side, was killed with him at the same time by the Shawanee Indians. As a striking proof of the veneration of the Indians for William Penn and the people of his colony, two men from Pennsylvania who were with them were spared. The two killed were from Virginia. The fact is referred to by lord Dunmore, in his speech at the Indian treaty near Chillicothe, in the year 1774. Mr. Williams accompanied Dunmore in this campaign, and acted as a ranger until its close.

By this marriage Mr. Williams became united to a woman whose spirit was congenial to his own. She was born the 14th of February, 1754, at Will's creek, on the Potomac, in the province of Maryland, and had removed with her father's family to Grave creek in 1771. Since her residence in the western country, she had lived with her brothers, Samuel and Joseph, as their house keeper, near the mouth of Grave creek; and for weeks together, while they were absent on tours of hunting, she was left entirely alone. She was now in her twenty-first year; full of life and activity, and as fearless of danger as the man who had chosen her for his companion. One proof of her courageous spirit is related by her niece, Mrs. Bukey. In the spring

of the year 1774, she made a visit to a sister, who was married to a Mr. Baker, then living on the Ohio river opposite the mouth of Yellow creek. It was soon after the time of the massacre of Logan's relatives at Baker's station. Having finished her visit, she prepared to return home in a canoe by herself, the traveling being chiefly done by water. The distance from her sister's to Grave creek was about fifty miles. She left there in the afternoon, and paddled her light canoe rapidly along until dark. Knowing that the moon would rise at a certain hour she landed, and fastening the slender craft to the willows, she leaped on shore; and, lying down in a thick clump of bushes, waited patiently the rising of the moon. As soon as it had cleared the tops of the trees and began to shed its cheerful rays over the dark bosom of the Ohio, she prepared to embark. The water being shallow near the shore, she had to wade a few paces before reaching the canoe; when just in the act of stepping on board, her naked foot rested on the dead cold body of an Indian, who had been killed a short time before; and which, in the gloom of the night, she had not discovered in landing. Without flinching or screaming, she stepped lightly into the canoe, with the reflection that she was thankful he was not alive. Resuming the paddle she reached the mouth of Grave creek in safety early the following morning.

Walter Scott's Rebecca, the Jewess, was not more celebrated for her cures and skill in treating wounds, than was Rebecca Williams amongst the honest borderers of the Ohio river. About the year 1785, while living a short time at Wheeling, on account of Indian depredations, she, with the assistance of Mrs. Zane, dressed the wounds of Thomas Mills, who was wounded in fourteen places by rifle shots. He with three other men were spearing fish by torch light about a mile above the garrison when they were fired on by a party of Indians secreted on the shore. Mills stood in the bow of the canoe holding a torch, and, as he was a fair mark, received the most of the shots—the others escaped unhurt—one arm and one leg were broken in addition to the flesh wounds. Had he been in the regular service with plenty of surgeons, he probably would have lost one or both limbs by amputation. But this being out of the question here, where no surgeon could be procured, these women, with their fomentations and simple applications of slippery elm bark, not only cured his wounds, at the time deemed impossible, and restored him to health, but also saved both his limbs. Many years after this, while the writer of this article was attending on a man with a compound fracture of the leg from the kick of a horse, and who was lying near her residence, she was present at one of the dressings, and related

several of her cures in border times. She said her principal dressings were made of slippery elm, the leaves of stramonium, or "jimson," and daily ablutions with warm water.

Their marriage was as unostentatious and as simple as the manners and habits of the party. A traveling preacher happening to come into the settlement, as they sometimes did, though rarely, they were married without any previous preparation of nice dresses, bride cakes, or bride maids—he standing up in a hunting dress, and she in a short gown and petticoat of homespun, the common wear of the country.

In the summer of 1774, the year before her marriage, she was one morning busily occupied in kindling a fire preparatory to breakfast, with her back to the door on her knees puffing away at the coals. Hearing some one step cautiously on to the floor, she looked round and beheld a tall Indian close to her side. He made a motion of silence to her, at the same time shaking his tomahawk in a threatening manner if she made any alarm. He, however, did not offer to harm her; but looking carefully round the cabin he espied her brother Samuel's rifle hanging on the hooks over the fire place. This he seized upon, and fearing the arrival of some of the men hastened his departure without any further damage. While he was with her in the house, she preserved her presence of mind and betrayed no marks of fear; but no sooner was he gone, however, than she left the cabin and secreted herself in the corn till her brother came in. Samuel was lame at the time, but happened to be out of the way; so that it is probable his life might have been saved from this circumstance. It was but seldom that the Indians killed unresisting women or children, except in the excitement of an attack and when they had met with opposition from the men. In 1777, two years after their marriage, the depredations and massacres of the Indians were so frequent that the settlement at Grave creek, now consisting of several families, was broken up. It was the frontier station, and lower on the Ohio than any other, above the mouth of the Big Kenawha. It was in this year that the Indians made their great attack on the fort at Wheeling. Mr. Williams and his wife, with her father's family, Mr. Joseph Tomlinson, moved on to the Monongahela river above Redstone, old fort. Here he remained until the spring of the year 1783, when he returned with his wife and Mr. Tomlinson to their plantations on Grave creek. In the year 1785, he had to remove again from his farm into the garrison at Wheeling.

*(To be continued.)*



DAILY JOURNAL OF WAYNE'S CAMPAIGN,

*From July 28th to November 2d, 1794, including an account of the memorable battle of 20th August.*

*Fort Greenville*—where we were employed in erecting huts, and remained until the 28th July, 1794.

*Camp at Stillwater, 28th July, 1794.*—Agreeable to the general order of yesterday, the legion took up their line of march at eight o'clock, and encamped at half past three on the bank of Stillwater, twelve miles from Greenville. The weather extremely warm—water very bad. Nothing occurred worth noticing.

*Camp one mile in advance of Fort Recovery, 29th July, 1794.*—At five o'clock left the camp—arrived on this ground at one o'clock, being fifteen miles. Nothing took place worth reciting.

I am now informed that tracks were perceived on our right flank, supposed to be runners from the Oglaze.

*Camp Beaver Swamp, eleven miles in advance of Fort Recovery, 30th July, 1794.*—This morning the legion took up the line of march, and arrived here at 3 o'clock. The road was to cut, as will be the case on every new route we take in this country. The weather still warm—no water except in ponds, which nothing but excessive thirst would induce us to drink. The musketoes are very troublesome, and larger than I ever saw. The most of this country is covered with beech, the land of a wet soil intermixed with rich tracts, but no running water to be found.

A bridge to be built over this swamp to-morrow, which prevents the march of the legion till the day after. We are informed there is no water for twelve miles.

*July 31, 1794.*—Commenced building the bridge, being seventy yards in length, which will require infinite labor; it will be five feet deep, with loose mud and water.

One hundred pioneers set out this morning, strongly escorted, to cut a road to the St. Mary's river, twelve miles. I expect the bridge will be completed so as to march early in the morning.

*Camp St. Mary's River, 1st August, 1794.*—Proceeded on our way before sun-rise, and arrived at this place at three o'clock, being twelve miles as aforesaid. Our encampment is on the largest and most beautiful prairie I ever beheld, the land rich and well timbered; the water plenty but very bad—the river is from forty-five to fifty yards wide, in which I bathed. I am told there is plenty of fish in it.

*August 2nd, 1794.*—The legion detained here for the purpose of erecting a garrison, which will take up three days. This day one of

the deputy quarter-masters was taken up by the Indians. Our spies discovered where four of the enemy had retreated precipitately with a horse, and supposed to be the party the above person had been taken by. It is hoped he will not give accurate information of our strength.

*August 3rd, 1794.*—An accident took place this day by a tree falling on the commander-in-chief and nearly putting an end to his existence; we expected to be detained here some time in consequence of it, but fortunately he is not so much hurt as to prevent him from riding at a slow pace.

No appearance of the enemy to-day, and think they are preparing for a warm attack. The weather very hot and dry, without any appearance of rain.

*Camp thirty-one miles in advance of Fort Recovery, 4th August, 1794.*—The aforesaid garrison being completed, lieutenant Underhill, with one hundred men, left to protect it; departed at six o'clock and arrived here at three o'clock, being ten miles. The land we marched through is rich and well timbered, but the water scarce and bad; obliged to dig holes in boggy places and let it settle.

*Camp forty-four miles in advance of Fort Recovery, 5th August, 1794.*—We arrived at this place at four o'clock, nothing particular occurring. The land and water as above described—had some rain to-day.

*Camp fifty-six miles from Fort Recovery, 6th August, 1794.*—Encamped on this ground at two o'clock. In the course of our march perceived the track of twenty Indians. I am informed we are within six miles of one of their towns on the Oglaze river, supposed to be the upper Delaware town. If so I expect to eat green corn to-morrow.

Our march this day has been through an exceeding fine country, but the water still bad—the day cooler than heretofore.

*Camp sixty-eight miles from Fort Recovery, 7th August, 1794.*—This day passed the upper town on the Oglaze, which the Indians evacuated some time ago. I expect to see one of their new towns, where I am told there are all sorts of vegetables, which will be very acceptable to the troops. We have had no appearance of Indians to-day.

*Camp Grand Oglaze, 8th August, 1794.*—Proceeded on our march to this place at five o'clock this morning, and arrived here at the confluence of the Miami and Oglaze rivers at half past ten, being seventy-seven miles from Fort Recovery. This place far excels in beauty any in the western country, and believed equalled by none in the

Atlantic States. Here are vegetables of every kind in abundance, and we have marched four or five miles in cornfields down the Oglaze, and there is not less than one thousand acres of corn round the town. The land in general of the fir nature.

This country appears well adapted for the enjoyment of industrious people, who cannot avoid living in as great luxury as in any other place throughout the states, nature having lent a most bountiful hand in the arrangement of the position, that a man can send the produce to market in his own boat. The land level and river navigable, not more than sixty miles from the lake.

The British have built a large garrison about fifty miles from this place, and our spies inform us that the enemy are encamped about two miles above it on the river.

*Grand Oglaze, 9th August, 1794.*—We remain here.—The commander-in-chief has ordered a garrison to be erected at the confluence of the Miami and Oglaze rivers, which was begun this morning, and will take up some time; by this means the troops will be much refreshed, as well as the horses and cattle, the latter being much wearied and in need of a recess of labor. No appearance of an enemy.

*Grand Oglaze, 10th August, 1794.*—The troops in good spirits. No interruption from, or account of, the enemy. We have plenty of vegetables. One of our militia officers wounded by his own sentinel by mistake.

*Grand Oglaze, 11th August, 1794.*—Nothing occurs to prevent the completion of our work.

[Here were a few leaves lost out of the manuscript, to my great regret.—*Editor American Pioneer.*]

Took up their line of march, and at one arrived on this ground without any occurrence. Our camp is situated in sight of Snaketown, on the Miami of the Lake. Vegetables in abundance.

*Camp nineteen miles from Oglaze, 16th August, 1794.*—Our march this day was through a bushy ground, and the road generally bad. Miller (the flag) returned this day from the enemy with information from the tribes, that if the commander-in-chief would remain at Grand Oglaze ten days they would let him know whether they would be for peace or war.

*Camp thirty-one miles from Camp Oglaze, 17th August, 1794.*—This day a small party of the enemy's spies fell in with ours; both parties being for discoveries, they retreated, at which time the enemy fired and wounded one of our horses. Our camp, head of the Rapids.

*Camp forty-one miles from Grand Oglaze, 18th August, 1794.*—The legion arrived on this ground, nothing particular taking place. Five of our spies were sent out at three o'clock—they fell in with an advanced body of the enemy, and obliged to retreat; but May, one of our spies, fell under the enemy's hold. What his fate may be must be left to future success.

*Camp Deposit, 19th August, 1794.*—The legion still continued in encampment, and are throwing up works to secure and deposit the heavy baggage of the troops, so that the men may be light for action, provided the enemy have presumption to favor us with an interview, which if they should think proper to do, the troops are in such high spirits that we will make an easy victory of them.

By this morning's order, the legion is to march at five o'clock.

*Camp in sight of a British garrison, on the Miamis of the Lake, August 20, 1794—one hundred and fifty miles from Greenville.*—This day the legion, after depositing every kind of baggage, took up the line of march at 7 o'clock, and continued their route down the margin of the river, without making any discovery, until eleven o'clock, when the front guard, which was composed of mounted volunteers, were fired on by the enemy. The guard retreated in the utmost confusion through the front guard of the regulars, commanded by captain Cook and lieutenant Steele, who, in spite of their utmost exertion, made a retreat. These fell in with the left of captain Howell Lewis' company of light infantry and threw that part of the men into confusion, which captain Lewis observing, he ordered the left of his company to retreat about forty yards, where he formed them and joined the right, which had stood their ground. They continued in this position until they were joined by part of captain Springer's battalion of riflemen, which was nearly fifteen minutes after the firing commenced, who drove the enemy that had attempted to flank us on the right. Nearly at the same time, the right column came up, and the charge was sounded—the enemy gave way and fired scattering shots as they run off.

About the time the right column came up, a heavy firing took place on the left, which lasted but a short time, the enemy giving way in all quarters, which left us in possession of their *dead* to the number of forty. Our loss was thirty killed and one hundred wounded. Among the former we have to lament the loss of captain Miss Campbell of the dragoons, and lieutenant Henry B. Fowles of the 4th sub-legion; and of the latter, captains Prior of the first, Slough of the fourth, and Van Rensselaer of the dragoons, also lieutenant Campbell Smith of the fourth sub-legion. The whole loss of the enemy cannot



at present be ascertained, but it is more than probable it must have been considerable, for we pursued them with rapidity for nearly two miles. As to the number of the enemy engaged in this action, opinions are so various, that I am at a loss to know what to say; the most general opinion is one thousand five hundred, one third of which are supposed to be Canadians; I am led to believe this number is not over the mark. After the troops had taken some refreshment, the legion continued their route down the river, and encamped in sight of the British garrison. One Canadian fell into our hands, who we loaded with irons.

*Camp Foot of the Rapids, 21st August, 1794.*—We are now lying within half a mile of a British garrison. A flag came to the commander-in-chief, the purport of which was that he, the commanding officer of the British fort, was surprised to see an American army so far advanced in this country; and why they had the assurance to encamp under the mouths of his Majesty's cannons! The commander-in-chief answered, that the affair of yesterday might well inform him why this army was encamped in its present position, and had the flying savages taken shelter under the walls of the fort, his Majesty's cannons should not have protected them.

*Camp Foot of the Rapids, 22d August, 1794.*—We have destroyed all the property within one hundred yards of the garrison. The volunteers were sent down eight miles below the fort, and have destroyed and burnt all the possessions belonging to the Canadians and savages. The commander-in-chief led his light infantry within pistol shot of the garrison to find out the strength and situation of the place, and in hopes of bringing a shot from our inveterate but silent enemies. They were too cowardly to come up to our expectations, and all we got by insulting the colors of Britain, was a flag, the amount of which was, that the commanding officer of the fort felt himself as a soldier much injured, by seeing his Majesty's colors insulted, and if such conduct was continued, he would be under the necessity of making a proper resentment; upon which the commander-in-chief demanded the post, it being the right of the United States, which was refused. A small party of dragoons were sent over the river to burn and destroy all the houses, corn, &c. that were under cover of the fort, which was effected.

*Camp Deposit, 23d August, 1794.*—Having burned and destroyed every thing contiguous to the fort without any opposition, the legion took up the line of march, and in the evening encamped on this ground, being the same they marched from the 20th. It may be proper to remark that we have heard nothing from the savages, or their allies

the Canadians, since the action. The honors of war have been paid to the remains of those brave fellows who fell on the 20th, by a discharge of three rounds from sixteen pieces of ordnance, charged with shells. The ceremony was performed with the greatest solemnity.

*Camp Thirty-two Mile Tree, 24th August, 1794.*—The wounded being well provided for with carriages, &c., the legion took up the line of march, and halted in their old camp about two o'clock in the evening without any accident. In this day's march we destroyed all the corn and burnt all the houses we met with, which were very considerable.

*Camp Fifteen Mile Tree, 25th August, 1794.*—The legion continued their march, and encamped on this ground at three o'clock P. M. This morning a few of the volunteers remained in the rear of the army; and soon after the legion took up their line of march they saw eight Indians coming into our camp; they fell in with them, killed one and wounded two.

*Camp Nine Mile Tree, 26th August, 1794.*—The legion continued their march, and after burning and destroying all the houses and corn on their route, arrived on this ground at two o'clock, being one of our encamping places when on our advance.

All the wounded that were carried on litters and horseback were sent forward to Fort Defiance. Doctor Carmichael through neglect had the wounded men of the artillery and cavalry thrown into wagons, among spades, axes, picks, &c., in consequence of which the wounded are now lying in extreme pain, besides the frequent shocks of a wagon on the worst of roads. The wounded of the third sub-legion are under obligations to doctor Haywood for his attention and humanity to them in their distress.

*Camp Fort Defiance, 27th August, 1794.*—The legion continued their route, and at three o'clock were encamped on the Miami, one mile above the garrison. On this day's march we destroyed all the corn and burnt all the houses on our route, the wounded are happily fixed in the garrison, and the doctors say there is no great danger of any of them dying.

*Fort Defiance, 28th August, 1794.*—The commander-in-chief thinks proper to continue on this ground for some time, to refresh the troops and send for supplies. There is corn, beans, pumpkins, &c., within four miles of this place, to furnish the troops three weeks.

*General orders.*—The quarter master general will issue one gill of whisky to every man belonging to the federal army, (this morning,) as a small compensation for the fatigues they have undergone for several days past. Major general Scott will direct his quarter masters to

attend accordingly with their respective returns. The commander-in-chief wishes it to be fairly understood, that when he mentioned, or may mention the federal army in general orders, that term comprehends and includes the legion and mounted volunteers as one compound army, and that the term legion comprehends the regular troops, agreeable to the organization by the president of the United States, and by which appellation they are known and recognized on all occasions, when acting by themselves, and separate from the mounted volunteers. As the army will probably remain on this ground for some time, vaults must be dug, and every precaution taken to keep the encampment clean and healthy.

The legion will be reviewed the day after to-morrow at ten o'clock. In the interim the arms must be clean and varnished, and the clothing of the soldier repaired and washed, to appear in the most military condition possible; but in these necessary preparations for a review, great caution must be used by the commanding officers of wings, not to permit too many men at one time to take their locks off, or to be engaged in washing.

All the horses belonging to the quarter master and contractors' department, in possession of the legion, must be returned this afternoon.

This is the first fair day that we have had since we began to return to this place, it having rained nearly constant for five days, which was the occasion of fatiguing the troops very much.

*Fort Defiance, 29th August, 1794.*—We are as yet encamped on this ground; all the pack-horses belonging to the quarter master and contractors' department, moved this morning for Fort Recovery, escorted by brigadier-general Todd's brigade of mounted volunteers, for the purpose of bringing supplies to this place. It is said the legion will continue in their present camp until the return of this escort. Our spies were yesterday twelve miles up this river, and they bring information that the cornfields continue as far as they were up the river.

*Fort Defiance, 30th August, 1794.*—This day at ten o'clock, the commander-in-chief began to review the troops at the posts occupied by the different corps, and I am led to believe that he was well pleased at their appearance. Major Hughes, captain Slough, captain Van Rensselaer, and lieutenant Younghusband, obtained a furlough to go home to repair their healths, being, as they pretended, very much injured by the service.

I believe the two first and the last mentioned, if they never return will not be lamented by the majority of the army.

The out-guards were much alarmed this morning at the mounted volunteers firing off all their arms without our having any notice.

*Head Quarters, 31st August, 1794. General orders.*—A general court-martial to consist of five members, will set to-morrow morning at ten o'clock, for the trial of such prisoners as may be brought before them. Major Shaylor, president, lieutenant Wade, judge advocate.

The disorderly and dangerous practice of permitting the soldiery to pass the chain of sentinels, on pretext of going after vegetables, can no longer be suffered. In future, on issuing day, only one man from each mess, properly armed, and commanded by the respective sub-legionary quarter masters, will be sent as a detachment for vegetables, to march at seven o'clock in the morning.

The pack-horses shall forage daily under protection of a squadron of dragoons; every precaution must be taken to guard against surprise. Any non-commissioned officer or soldier found half a mile without the chain of sentinels, without a pass signed by the commanding officer of wings or sub-legion, or from head quarters, shall be deemed a deserter, and punished accordingly. Every sentinel suffering a non-commissioned officer or private to pass without such written permit, except a party on command, shall receive fifty lashes for each and every violation of this order.

A fatigue party of three hundred non-commissioned officers and privates, with a proportion of commissioned officers, will parade at seven o'clock to-morrow morning, furnished with one hundred axes, one hundred picks, and one hundred spades and shovels, with arms, commanded by major Burbeck.

A part of this order was in consequence of three men of the first sub-legion being either killed or taken by the enemy, when out a foraging, which was done some time since, in a very disorderly manner, at the same time liable to the attacks of the enemy, without having it in their power to make the smallest resistance.

*To be continued.*

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#### EARLY INCIDENTS OF BUFFALO—BUFFALO HARBOR.

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##### NUMBER VII.

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ABOUT twenty-five laborers were immediately collected, the pile-driver prepared for use, and a line of piles driven, two hundred feet from the pier, on the north side of that part of the channel which was obstructed. Two harbor-scows were made fast to these piles, and a platform of timber and plank extended over them. Four capstans were set up in these scows about twenty feet apart, and each rising a sufficient distance above the platform to receive four bars,



eight feet long. While this was in preparation, scrapers were formed of a single oak plank, eight feet long and twenty inches wide, the lower edge bevelled and faced with a thin bar of iron. They were finished like the common scrapers used by farmers in improving and smoothing the roads, with the addition of iron braces, and a rod of iron through the scraper near the lower edge, which passed through the pole or scantling by which it was drawn. On the upper end of the brace was a screw to regulate the scraper, which was loaded with iron to sink it, and connected by a strong rope with the windlass. A rope attached to the back part of the scraper, and extending to the pier, completed the simple machinery with which it was proposed to remove the gravel. Two men stationed on the pier could, by the small ropes, pull back the four scrapers as fast as they could be drawn home by the men at the four windlasses, each of which was worked by four men at the levers, and one to handle the rope. The men could work dry, but the labor was excessively exhausting. The experiment succeeded admirably, and other capstans were prepared for use. The weather the first three days proved favorable, and the heavy unbroken body of ice which covered the lake, prevented all interruptions from the waves. The progress made in removing the sand was most encouraging, and there appeared no doubt that by increasing the scrapers the channel could be opened before the first of May. But to effect this the work must be continued every working day without regard to the weather. Piles were put down, and a raft of timber substituted for scows on which to erect more capstans. Saturday night came, and the workmen were dismissed until Monday morning. During the night a heavy gale set in, and increased in violence until about noon on the Sabbath when the ice began to break up, and the lake to rise. Soon the ice was in motion, and driving in from the lake, was carried up the creek with such force as to destroy the scows and all the fixtures. The pile-driver, being securely fastened by strong rigging to the piles, it was hoped would remain safe, but the fasts gave way, and it was driving towards shore where it could scarcely escape destruction. As the breaking up of the ice would make it impossible to work the capstan on rafts, put in motion by the swell to which they would be exposed, scaffolds raised out of the way of the water must be substituted, and these could not possibly be built without piles. It was therefore all important to save the pile-driver. It was saved by the extraordinary exertions of two individuals who (making their way to it by the aid of two boards each, which they pushed forward alternately over the floating ice agitated by the swells,) succeeded in fastening it with a hawser to a pile near

which it was floating. This was not done without imminent hazard to the men, who, several times losing their position on the board, came near being crushed by the moving mass of ice.

The scow being secured, the anxious and disheartened citizens and workmen retired to their homes.

Any community less inured to disappointments and adversity would now have given up in despair. The very elements seemed to have conspired against them. The gale was frightful, and in the afternoon was accompanied by a heavy fall of snow: the water was high, and ice driving with violence on to the flats.

Monday morning the wind had subsided, but the weather was cold and still stormy. A general meeting of the citizens was convened, to whom the superintendent stated the extent of the damage, the probable time it would take to repair it, the amount of funds requisite to complete the work, and his entire confidence in ultimate success. He, however, refused to resume the work until sufficient funds were provided. As the liability to pay a hundred and fifty dollars a day would soon attach, the importance of a united and speedy effort was more sensibly felt. The meeting was fully attended, not only by those who were liable on the bond, but by many young mechanics and others. Dr. Johnson, John G. Camp and Dr. Chapin, were chosen a committee to obtain and collect subscriptions.

The following is a list of the names and sums subscribed :

Ebenezer Johnson, in goods at cash price,	\$110 00	John Root,	25 00
Sylvester Mathews, in bread,	25 00	Jabez Goodell, in labor, provisions, &c.	25 00
James Reed,	12 50	H. M. Campbell, in hats or labor,	25 00
Elisha Williams, in labor or goods, by H. B. Potter,	50 00	Hart & Cunningham, in goods,	50 00
Wm. Mason, in beef,	5 00	Sheldon Chapin, in goods,	50 00
Joseph Stocking,	25 00	J. D. Hoyt, in boots and shoes,	50 00
S. G. Austin,	12 50	A. James, in goods,	
G. & T. Weed, (including subscription a few days since) donation,	20 00	P. G. Jenks,	5 00
O. Newberry,	20 00	R. B. Heacock & Co. horse \$15, goods \$35,	50 00
Ezekiel Folsom, in meat from the market,	12 50	Thomas Quigly, in labor,	12 50
Samuel Wilkeson,	100 00	Timothy Page,	5 00
Townsend & Coit,	100 00	Thomas More,	2 00
H. B. Potter, cash \$50, brick \$25,	75 00	Martin Daley, in labor,	6 25
E. F. Norton,	50 00	A. Bryant, in goods and clothing,	50 00
Moses Baker, in labor or blacksmith work,	50 00	H. R. Seymour,	50 00
Thomas C. Love,	25 00	Nathaniel Vosburgh, saddlery,	12 50
John G. Camp, in cash or labor,	50 00	F. B. Merrill, in labor,	25 00
William Ketchum, \$20 cash, \$30 in hats,	50 00	John E. Marshall,	25 00
John A. Lazell,	25 00	D. M. Day,	12 50
Lucius Gold, in labor,	50 00	Z. Platt,	6 25
Samuel A. Bigelow, in goods or labor,	25 00	E. Walden, in goods,	100 00
Wm. Folsom, in labor,	25 00	J. Guiteau, in labor or cash,	12 50
		Cyrenius Chapin,	100 00
		James Demarest, in saddlery,	5 00
		D. Henion, 100 lbs. pork, when called for.	
		W. T. Miller, in fresh meat at market in Buffalo village,	50 00

Selden Davis,	5 00	Zachariah Griffin, 10 barrels of lime	
William Hodge, in labor or materials,	25 00	to be delivered in Buffalo,	6 25
Velorus Hodge, in work or materials,	5 00	Alvin Dodge, in team work and	
Benjamin Hodge, in lumber,	5 00	manual labor,	10 00
William Long, a certain brown cow,		H. A. Salisbury, in produce and hats,	12 50
with a white head, to be apprais-		Hiram Pratt, in goods,	25 00
ed by commissioners of Harbor		Erastus Gilbert, in shoes and boots,	25 00
Association.		" " bbl. pork,	10 00
Roswell Rosford, in produce or pro-		" " cash,	2 50
visions,	5 00	Oliver Coit, one crow-bar, \$3, cash \$5,	8 00
W. W. Gnapin, in team work,	10 00	Joseph Dart, Jr. in hats,	10 00
		Benjamin Caryl, in pork,	25 00

These subscriptions amounted to \$1,361 25, exclusive of the cow and pork, the whole of which was paid except \$110. The provisions and goods were paid to the workmen without loss, but on much of the other property, (which was sold at auction) there was an average loss of about thirty-seven and a half per cent.

The means being secured to prosecute the work, the laborers were called together, and the afternoon of Monday was spent in collecting from the wreck, scrapers, capstans, rigging, &c. and preparing to resume the work. The weather was as uncomfortable as it well could be. Indeed, from the commencement of the gale until the middle of April, there were but two days without snow or rain.

NOTE—The writer discovers that injustice has inadvertently been done to Mr. George Coit, in not connecting his name with that of judge Townsend, in the responsibilities assumed, and moneys advanced for the construction of the harbor.

#### NUMBER VIII.

TUESDAY morning two rows of piles were put down, on which to erect platforms in place of scows and rafts, which had been destroyed. These platforms were raised several feet above the water to protect the workmen from the spray of the swells which broke against the piles. Six scrapers were got in motion during the day, and notwithstanding the laborers were exposed to a heavy rain, rapid progress was made in removing the sand. Although the heavy swells, which continued to roll in from the lake, rendered it difficult to keep the empty scrapers in line, yet they carried the sand, removed from the channel, towards the shore, and prevented its accumulation.

The necessity of improving all the time was such, that the laborers were required to breakfast in season to appear on the beach by sunrise ready to be carried out to the platforms. Cooked provisions were taken with them for dinner, which each man ate when he pleased, standing in the storm. They continued their work without returning to the shore until dark. The labor was so hard, and the exposure so great, that it was difficult to obtain the necessary help; indeed, it would have been impossible but for the labor furnished by the citi-

zens—many of whom sent their hired men for a day or more until their places could be supplied.

The excavation commenced near the outer end of the pier, and progressed towards the shore, deepening the channel to eight feet. By the 15th of April much more than half of the work was accomplished, and every doubt as to the practicability of completing it removed.

The steamboat was rapidly advancing to completion. The builder (who from the first had despaired of seeing the channel opened by the means resorted to) on examining the work and measuring the water in the yet obstructed part of the channel, pronounced the whole scraping process useless, and proposed that the channel of the creek should be confined by planks, extending from the shore into deep water, believing that the water thus confined would produce a current which would soon do what the scrapers could never do—open a good channel. These opinions and plans communicated to the citizens, created a feverish excitement, which the superintendent had no opportunity to allay, as he was confined to the work.

The committee which had been charged with the duty of raising the fund for carrying on the work, deemed themselves entitled to direct its expenditure. A majority of them (influenced by the boat-builder) insisted on the immediate construction of the board fence, (for such in fact it was) which he had suggested. Piles supplying the place of posts, and planks sharpened at one end and driven into the sand, the upper end spiked to a rail, was to form the whole of this proposed structure. And such was the confidence in its success, that it was with difficulty the committee could be prevailed on to let the scraping be continued. The board work was put down in two days, and proved, as was anticipated by the superintendent, to be totally useless. A heavier swell than usual setting in, broke it up and removed it out of the way. The scraping then was relied on as the only hope of opening a passage for the boat, which would be ready in a few days to leave the creek.

Although the weather became good the latter part of April, and the work was prosecuted with the utmost diligence, yet the first of May came while there was still a few rods of the channel in which only about six and a half feet of water had been gained. As considerable work yet remained to be done on the boat, and no loss or inconvenience could accrue to the owners in allowing a few days to deepen the channel, yet no time could be obtained. The boat was put in motion, and fortunately the pilot, captain Miller, having made himself acquainted with what channel there was, ran her out into the



lake without difficulty. THE BOND WAS CANCELLED. The boat was, however, light; and when fully loaded would require much more water. The scraping was therefore continued.

When the boat was finished, the citizens were invited to take an excursion on the lake. It was feared that if the boat should be deeply loaded with passengers, she would ground in the new made channel. Although this would be a trifling occurrence in itself, yet circumstances had recently occurred which led them to regard the experiment with the deepest anxiety. An act had passed a few days before, authorizing the canal board to contract for the construction of a harbor at Black Rock, which, if completed, might secure the termination of the canal at that place, and supercede Buffalo harbor. The subject was to be acted by the canal board in a few days, and even so trifling an incident as the grounding of a steamboat might influence their decision, and deprive Buffalo of the fruits of all her toils and exertions in building a harbor.

An effort was therefore made to either postpone the steamboat excursion, or limit the number of passengers, but in vain. Neither the captain, nor a majority of the citizens, could appreciate the solicitude of the few. The whole village crowded on board, and the boat grounded. This was the more mortifying, as many of our Black Rock friends were on board, who had always predicted our failure. But after a few minutes delay in landing some of the people on the pier, the boat moved forward, went along side of the pier, took on the passengers, and proceeded up the lake, with bugles sounding and banners flying.

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*Mount Carmel, Illinois, May 6, 1842.*

JNO. S. WILLIAMS, Esq.

*Dear Sir*—Your extra was placed in my hands on yesterday. I have just returned from the East, having visited the Atlantic cities generally for the first time, after forty-five years pioneering in the wilderness of the West. I have been three times a citizen of Kentucky, twice of Ohio, and twice of Illinois. I was neighbor to Daniel Boon, the first whiteman that fortified against the Indians in Kentucky. In October, 1797, I saw him on pack horses take up his journey for Missouri, then upper Louisiana. Subsequently I became neighbor to Simon Kenton, who was the second or third man who fortified against the Indians at Washington, Kentucky. Perhaps Harrod's station was fortified before his.

In February last I fell in company with Wm. Smith, who told me of all the survivors of the first settlers of Ohio, at Marietta in 1788, as follows: Wm. Smith himself, of Gallia county, Ohio; Hezekiah Flint, of Cincinnati, Ohio; Porter, of Duck creek, Washington county, Ohio; Allen Duval, of some county; Jarvis Cutler, of Nashville, Tennessee. Mr. Cutler was at one time a partner of Nathaniel Massie, whose character as a pioneer stands high in Ohio. In 1788, Mr. Smith knew every man, woman, and child, in Ohio.

In December, 1834, in traveling through Indiana, I fell in with Jacob Davis, of Bartholomew county, who informed me that at ten years of age he was with his father on a trading expedition among the Indians; was there prior to 1774, when lord Dunmore made his treaty at Camp Charlotte, on Sippo, on old Winn Winship's farm. He told me that the Indian chief Logan, had attempted to associate the Missouri and Mississippi Indians against the whites. Mr. Davis says he was present at the council when the messengers returned from the west, and gave an account of their proceedings. Like Tecumseh, they failed to arrive in time; the Indians were defeated on the 10th of October, 1774, at Point Pleasant, by the left wing of Dunmore's army. This brought on the treaty of Camp Charlotte. Logan was lying down in a trader's tent, in a sullen mood, with his elbow on the ground and cheek on his hand, looking on the ground, and would not attend the treaty. He got a trader to write a note to lord Dunmore, which forms the celebrated speech. General Simon Kenton built his last cabin for him; and captain James M'Pherson, of Logan county, was adopted as chief in his place.

According to Ben Kelly, Tecumseh's adopted brother, who was five years in Blackfish's family, Tecumseh was born near Xenia, on Mr. Saxon's lot, near a spring. I was in a treaty with him at Chillicothe, in 1807, while Thos. Kirker, the acting governor, presided, and took down Tecumseh's speech for my nephew, captain R. D. Richardson, then editor of the *Fredonian*; also, I took down the speech of Blue Jacket. Tecumseh was then raising a breeze. My paper would fail to tell all, and for the present I must cease. At another time I shall take pleasure in communicating more for your work. Having seized upon facts, I hope your work will receive a support equal to its merits.

Yours, very respectfully,

*T. S. Hinde*

SECOND TRIP TO THE WEST—LOGAN.

BY FELIX RENICK, ESQ.

CONTENTS.

Introduction—Object and commencement of the trip—Difficulties on the Hockhocking, and directions from an old pioneer—Difficulties at the falls of Scotch creek—Arrival at Sippo creek—Camp Charlotte and Westfall—Dunmore's treaty—Conduct of Logan—Witnesses—Indian frolic—Logan kept aloof from it.

JNO. S. WILLIAMS, ESQ.

*Dear Sir,*—Agreeably to promise, I now proceed to give you a sketch of a second trip to the West. I cannot give all the incidents, without needlessly filling the pages of the Pioneer. But I will give the leading features of this trip, the main or most particular incident of which was my being thrown upon Camp Charlotte, or Old Camp Ground, as it is usually called.

Early in 1801, I set out from the south branch of the Potomac, in company with Jonathan Renick and two hired hands, with the intention of raising a crop on Darby creek. The land belonged to Jonathan and my brother Thomas Renick. We came out also with a view of purchasing land at the congress sales, which were to take place in the ensuing May at Chillicothe.

We had each a packhorse besides those we rode, loaded with farming utensils, ploughs, axes, hoes, &c., not forgetting a little provender for ourselves, on which our hired hands occasionally rode, in bad roads and in crossing water. We crossed the Ohio at the mouth of the Little Kanawha, and took a trace leading to the Hockhocking, a few miles below the falls of that river, intending to go up to Zane's trace, where the town of Lancaster now stands, thence with that trace to the Scioto valley. Where we struck the Hocking, an old pioneer had squatted the year before, and raised a small crop for the support of himself and family, in the way of bread stuff, depending on his rifle and dog for the balance. He informed us that the river was entirely too high to be forded, and that we could not pursue our intended route up it, without crossing it several times, or encountering several rough hills on either side. We were therefore under the necessity of waiting until the river ran down, or getting over it the best way we could, and striking our course through the woods for the Scioto. We preferred the latter. We partook of the old man's hospitality that night, and with his assistance swam our horses across the river, and got our baggage over in a small canoe or dug-out, and prepared to pursue our journey. He told us to go up the Hocking a short distance, and to leave it where Dunmore's trace left it, which he said was much the best way to get over the high rough hills,

between the Hocking and the Scioto. He also told us that we would have to cross Scotch creek before we turned off from the Hocking, and that in the present stage of the creek, there was but one place we could cross it without swimming, which was on the falls, where the creek poured over a smooth rock, and fell some twenty or more feet perpendicularly into a large deep basin below, which covered more than an acre of ground. He said it would look frightful, but that there would be no danger, as it would be little, if any, more than belly deep to our horses.

We took leave of our pioneer friend, and following his directions, found the crossing of Scotch creek, as he described it, a really frightful looking place. The muddy water, pouring over the rock into the basin, agitated the whole of the water, and lashed it into a foam, which gave it the appearance of a huge kettle of dirty water ready to boil over. Its appearance had the effect to frighten one of our hands so much, that he declared he never would venture into such a horrible looking place. He said we would most assuredly be swept off into the pool below, and that would be the last of us. He was a large, six foot two, athletic looking fellow, who had been frequently boasting on the way, of his power at fisticuff, and what he would do with the Indians, should it be his good fortune to come into contact with any of them. We used all the means in our power to prevail on him to enter the creek with us, but to no effect. We finally got out of all patience with him, and as he was mounted on my pack-horse, I bid him in very rough language to dismount and give me the bridle, and stay or go where he pleased, for we had no use for such a miserable coward as he was. He did as I bid him, and the rest of us put into the creek and crossed in safety. After we got over he made some signs for one of us to return and bring him over, to which we paid no attention. This might be thought by some to partake too much of inhumanity; but the pioneers of that day will bear me out in saying that the fate of a notorious coward was less regarded than that of a faithful dog.

We pursued our route up the Hocking, and diverging from it agreeably to the directions of the pioneer, we got off the rough ground, which divides the Hocking from the Scioto valley, as well as we expected, and camped that night on the branches of Sippo creek, a branch of the Scioto. About the time we were striking up our camp, our brave fisticuff, Indian killing man, came up with us. Some snow having fallen that day, enabled him to follow us; but how he got over Scotch creek he never would tell. Should any ask what became of him, I will say that in the summer following, there was a report in



circulation, that the Indians were about to combine and come down the Scioto in a body, in order to rob the receiver's office, in Chillicothe. The captain in that district gave his men notice to be ready at a moment's warning to defend the country. Our big man told the captain he would give him bail that he would be ready; and he was as good as his word, but it was leg-bail, and the next we heard of him, he had topped the Alleghanies, and was descending the eastern slope. Where or when he stopped I never knew.

Next day we pursued Dunmore's trace down the creek, and in a few hours came upon Camp Charlotte. The encampment was then very visible. The appearance was, that much labor had been spent in its erection. Many of the tent poles were still standing. I believe Dr. Winship now owns the land where the camp was. After leaving the camp, we steered for the Scioto river, where the town of Westfall now is, and then supposed to be about six or eight miles from Camp Charlotte.

From the best information I have been able to obtain, Camp Charlotte cannot claim to be the place where Logan delivered his celebrated speech. Logan did not come into camp at the request of Dunmore, as most of the other chiefs did, to participate in concluding a treaty. Dunmore (as was then suspected, and afterwards well understood,) was very anxious to conciliate and obtain the good will of the Indians toward the British government, fearing a rupture between that government and the colonies. He sent a messenger with some associates to invite Logan into camp. Some accounts say, that a Mr. Clark was the principal messenger, others say that it was colonel Gibson, which seems well established in the appendix to Jefferson's Notes on Virginia. These messengers, agreeably to orders, sought and found Logan in his camp, on the west bank of the Scioto river; which accounts, most to be relied on, state to have been where the above named town of Westfall now stands.

Logan indignantly refused going into camp, or having any thing to do with the treaty, saying that Logan was no counselor—Logan was a warrior; but after having some conversation with the messenger, he delivered the celebrated speech to him, and requested it to be taken to Dunmore.

My first information on this subject, which is corroborated by what I have since learned in this country, I obtained from an uncle and two of our nearest neighbors on the south branch, the elder captain Daniel M'Neil, and captain James Parsons, who all served in Dunmore's campaign, and also from William Renick, Sen'r., of Greenbriar, Virginia, who was taken prisoner, when a youth, some years previous to Dunmore's war, and resided at that time among .

the Indians at the Pickaway plains, in Logan's very neighborhood. One of these towns was on each side of the Sippo creek, immediately east of the road from Chillicothe to Circleville. He was then reclaimed, with other prisoners, and returned to Virginia. Captain Parsons informed me that he was at the town where Logan then resided, and where he delivered his speech. He called it Chi-le-coth-e, (sounding each syllable as it would detached from the rest,) and several times related the manner and circumstances of his getting there.

Captain Parsons said that in consequence of Logan's, and perhaps one or two other chiefs' refusing any participation in the treaty, Dunmore was fearful they might have some evil designs, and ordered a small posse of men over, to watch their movements, while the treaty was in progress. When the treaty was brought to a close, a runner was dispatched with the news to the men and Indians at Chillicothe, and was conveyed with so much speed, that it reached Chillicothe before it was promulgated in camp, and the moment it was received, the white men and Indians commenced dancing and shooting as fast as they could load and fire. The reports reached camp, and captain Parsons and some of his men supposed a fight had commenced between the Indians and men over the river. They flew to their guns, and without further orders, took to their heels, with all speed, to relieve, as they supposed, their fellow soldiers.

This specimen of insubordination may be accounted for by recurring to the fact, that colonel Lewis encamped on Congo creek, near to Westfall, and was for an Indian fight, whether or not. They were sore from the battle at Kanawha, and it is said it was not till Dunmore had drawn his sword on him, that he would give up the fight and join the division at Camp Charlotte. The state of things will perhaps be better understood, if it is considered that this was the same year the tea was thrown overboard at Boston.

When they got to the river, the firing still continuing, they waded over and crept up the bank very cautiously, determined to make sure work with the first fire at least; but to their surprise, they saw Indians and white men all mingled together in a real frolic. After joining in and taking a few bouts with them, the captain and his men returned to camp. If my memory is not very much at fault, he told me that Logan held himself aloof, as well from this frolic as from the treaty ground. You have now all the material facts, both as respects the locality of Camp Charlotte, and in respect to where Logan delivered his speech. Very respectfully yours,

*John Penick*

## MR. SHARP'S LETTER.

*Warren County, Missouri, June 15th, 1842.*

MR. JNO. S. WILLIAMS,

*Dear Sir*—In the year 1776, about the time American independence was declared, all that part of West Virginia now contained in the counties of Wythe, Smyth, Washington, Russell, Lee, and Scott, with the adjoining counties in North Carolina (now Tennessee) of Sullivan and Washington, were broken up and the inhabitants driven into strongholds. About the last of June or first of July, the traders fled from the Cherokee nation with the alarming news, that the Indians were coming in great force, and in a few days would break into the settlements. A few of the militia, perhaps one hundred and fifty or two hundred, hastily assembled under the command of captains James Thompson, James Shelby and William Cook, and proceeded to the frontier house, about fifteen miles in advance of the settlement, and begun to build a kind of stockade fort with fence rails; but before they could finish their fort their spies gave them notice that a large Indian force was within a few miles. It was then debated, which would be the most prudent, to await their coming in their crazy fort or march out boldly and meet them in the woods. The latter proposition prevailed, and before they had proceeded more than five miles, they discovered nine or ten Indians, who threw down their budgets and fled. This threw the men into disorder, curiosity drawing them around the Indian plunder in a crowd; but presently they heard a noise like distant thunder, and looking round they saw the whole Indian force running upon them at full speed—they made a hasty retreat to a rising ground, where they rallied; and the Indians came running up with savage yells, as if intending to rush among them with their tomahawks. A sharp engagement ensued, lasting from one-half to three-quarters of an hour, when the Indians disappeared, as if by magic, leaving the whitemen masters of the ground. Of the whites none were killed and only four slightly wounded. Eleven or twelve Indians lay dead upon the field and many trails of blood were found where the dead were carried off or the wounded had escaped. My oldest brother and a brother-in-law were in the action.

A curious incident occurred during the engagement. An Alexander Moore, a strong, athletic, active man, by some means got into close contact with an Indian of nearly his own size and strength; my brother-in-law, William King, seeing Moore's situation, ran up to his relief, but the Indian adroitly kept Moore in such a position that King

could not shoot him without shooting Moore. The Indian had a large knife suspended at his belt, for the possession of which they both struggled, but at length Moore succeeded and plunged it into the Indian's bowels; he then broke his hold and sprung off from Moore, and King shot him through the head.

The victorious party now returned to the fort, and instantly dispersed to take care of their own families and concerns. In the meantime the whole settlements were breaking up and the people fleeing from every quarter. We had collected some horses and loaded them with such necessities as we could hastily pack up, and about the middle of the day my father, an old man, set off with them and the females of the family to seek a place of safety, he knew not where. I was despatched on foot to accelerate the escape of a brother's and sister's families, the one living four and the other six miles directly toward the point of danger. I was a little turned of fourteen years of age; the day was warm, but I was light and active and had no incumbrance but my gun and shot-pouch, and I traveled rapidly.

On my arrival I found the families had fled, and I turned to pursue my father. I had twelve miles to go to gain the great road, which I did as the day was nearly closing. In my whole route I had not seen a human face, but here the road was full of people moving hastily along; they were all strangers to me, but learning my situation one man generously proposed to carry me behind him till I could regain my friends or hear some intelligence of them. This offer I gladly embraced, and after some time we came to the farm of a captain Joseph Black, where Abington now stands, where we found four or five hundred souls of all descriptions collected together to build a fort, and here I found my connections.

The next day, when all hands were engaged in procuring materials and building fort Black, we received the news of the battle of Long Island, which gave us much encouragement, and business was suspended till a prayer of thanksgiving was offered up by the Rev. Charles Cummings, a Presbyterian minister. Not more than two or three days after this a captain James Montgomery, who lived about eight miles off, came to the fort; he had concluded, with two other families, to defend his own house, but not knowing what was going on he had rode out to try to find some people or get some intelligence. He was earnestly beset to bring the families instantly to the fort, and men and horses were sent to assist him. They soon returned with the families and some of their effects, and went back for more, but to their surprise they found the houses plundered and all in flames. They retreated hastily to the fort, and spies were appointed and sent out—but for several days they made no discovery, but at



length they came in one night after dark and reported that they had discovered a fire on the bank of the river above Mongomeies, which they supposed to be the Indian camp. An express was sent off to another fort, requesting their men to meet our men at a certain place at a certain hour that night. A party set off with the spies and was met by the men from the other fort according to appointment, and the spies conducted them to the spot. They cautiously surrounded them from the river below to the river above them, with strict injunctions to preserve a profound silence till the report of the captain's gun should give the signal for a general discharge, and in this position they waited for day. As soon as day had fairly dawned the Indians arose and began to move about the camp, when the crack of the captain's rifle was followed by a well directed fire from every quarter; the Indians fled across the river, exposed all the way to the fire of the whites; if any fell or sunk in the river it was not known, but if I recollect right eleven lay dead at and around the camp. The men crossed the river and found various trails of blood, one of which they traced up to where the fellow had crept into a hollow log; they drew him out by the feet and found him mortally wounded: he requested them by signs to shoot him in the head, which request they granted.

When the men returned all safe, with the Indian spoils and scalps, there was great rejoicing, and the scalps were suspended to a pole and fixed as a trophy over the fort gate. But we did not enjoy this triumph long, for shortly after a different scene took place. One morning three parties prepared to go out; one in which were my father, my two brothers, and two brothers-in-law, went early and was unmolested; they went to visit some plantations twelve miles off, and knew of nothing that had happened behind them, and did not return till late at night. Of the other two, one went to a field about a mile off, I think to secure some flax, and the other about the same distance to the house of the Rev. Charles Cummings, to bring his books, and some of his effects to the fort. Both these parties were attacked at the same time in full hearing of the fort; and here an undescribable scene of disorder took place, the women and children screaming, wives clinging to their husbands, mothers to their sons, and sisters to their brothers, to prevent them from going out, and crowding the fort gate, so that the men could hardly pass or repass. However a number of the men broke through, and ran to the rescue as fast as possible, but before they could arrive the Indians had done their work and were gone; one man was killed and one wounded in each party. A man by the name of Blackburn, was shot, tomahawked, and scalped, and yet was found alive, brought in, and recovered of his wounds. He was a long time an object of compassion.

The gallantry of two young men in this affray deserves to be recorded here. William Casey had a sister, a beautiful little girl, about sixteen years of age, along with the party at the field; and as he was running for his life, he discovered the Indians in close pursuit of his sister; and at that moment his eyes falling upon another young man, by the name of Robert Hasold, he called to him to come and help him to save Nancy; Hasold obeyed, and although there were four or five Indians in pursuit, (some said seven,) they rushed between them

and the girl, and by dexterously managing to fire alternately, still keeping one gun loaded when the other was discharged, they kept the Indians at bay till they gave up the pursuit, and they brought the girl in safe. Such acts of generous bravery ought at all times be held up as examples to our youth. Ever after, these two young men stood prominent in society.

During the summer several murders were committed; two men were killed almost in sight of the neighboring fort, who had gone out to bring up their horses. Of two men who went with an express from fort Black, one was killed and the other made his escape. It had been early determined to carry an expedition into the Indian country; and troops begun to assemble at the Long Island, the place of rendezvous, and build a fort, which was called fort Henry. A company was enrolled at fort Black, and taken under pay, to guard the fort and escort the provision and baggage wagons going to, and returning from the rendezvous. In this company I engaged, which was the first of my military service.

I think some time in November, the army, one thousand five hundred, or two thousand strong, under the command of colonel William Christian, of Virginia, moved on the Indian towns. I cannot recollect that this army killed any Indians, or took any prisoners; but they burned down all their villages, destroyed their corn, and every article of subsistence they could find, which reduced them to such a state of starvation, that before spring they sent in a flag for peace, which resulted in the treaty of the Long Island, in 1777.

I attended this treaty only one day, and that before the conferences begun, and can report nothing of my own knowledge; I will only mention an oratorical figure in a speech of the Raven, the principal Indian chief. A great many Indians with their squaws and children had collected, and were quartered in the island, surrounded by a guard to prevent improper intercourse with the whites; but notwithstanding this precaution, some abandoned fellow shot across the river and killed an Indian. This produced great confusion; the Indians thought they were betrayed, and prepared to fly, and it was with much exertion the officers and commissioners could convince and pacify them. Afterwards when the council met, the Raven opened the conference on the part of his people by a speech, in which he reverted to the case of the murdered Indian. He said, lest that unhappy affair should disturb the harmony and sincerity that ought to exist at that time between the white and red brethren, each party ought to view it as having happened so long ago, as if when the Indian was buried an acorn had been thrown into his grave, which had sprouted and grown, and become a lofty spreading oak, sufficiently large for them to sit under its shade, and hold their talk. This speech was much talked of at the time, and many thought it equal to any thing in the celebrated speech of Logan. Thus ended the first Cherokee war.

I am, with much esteem, &c.

Jno. S. Williams, Esq.

*Benj. Sharp*



